



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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By: Lt. Bernie Kale

Alaska Air National Guardsmen transport critically injured patient

CAMP DENALI, Alaska—Airmen with the Alaska Air National Guard's 210th and 212th Rescue Squadrons transported a 72-year-old man in critical condition to Anchorage from Seward Aug. 14.

The 11th Air Force Rescue Coordination Center was notified at 10 a.m. that a Providence Seward Medical and Care Center patient with cerebral bleeding, along with his emergency room nurse, was in need of immediate transportation to the larger Providence Alaska Medical Center in Anchorage.

Utilizing a HH-60 Pave Hawk helicopter from the Alaska Air National Guard's 210th Rescue Squadron with a Guardian Angel pararescue team from the 212th Rescue Squadron onboard, rescuers launched from Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson and arrived shortly after 12 p.m. at the Seward hospital.

"The individual was hooked up to life-maintaining equipment," said Master Sgt. Armando Soria, a search and rescue controller with the 11th Air Force Rescue Coordination Center. "The nurse went on the Pave Hawk with the patient to ensure the hospital's equipment would continue to function properly."

The Pave Hawk landed at Providence Alaska Medical Center in Anchorage shortly before 1:30 p.m.

"While the civilian helicopter medical transportation agencies were unable to take this mission because of weather constraints, the Alaska Air National Guard's rescue squadrons' capabilities and training allowed them to execute this mission quickly," Soria said.

In addition, civilian fixed-wing air ambulances were unable to conduct this mission because of a runway closure in Seward.

The Alaska Air National Guard's 210th and 212th Rescue Squadrons were awarded one save for this mission.

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